

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-16 and adds new claims 17-20.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-20.

Claims 1-16 stand objected to due to various informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Various amendments were made throughout the claims to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Fanning (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,907); claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fanning in view of Needham (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0188735); claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fanning in view of the IBM reference IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin entitled “Logical Data Interface” and the Intel reference article entitled “P2P File-sharing at Work in the Enterprise”); claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fanning in view of the Muller reference (article entitled “Desktop Encyclopedia of the Internet”); claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fanning in view of the Yang reference (article entitled “Comparing Hybrid Peer-to-Peer System”); and claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fanning in view of the Rabinovich reference (article entitled “Not all hits are created equal: Cooperative Proxy Caching over a Wide-area Network”). These rejections are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-16 are not

taught or suggested by Fanning, Needham, the IBM reference, the Muller reference, the Yang reference and the Rabinovich reference whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims in order to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to an integrated storage management system in which computers having an auxiliary storage are connected to each other via a network, and an access computer as an access source accesses a file in the auxiliary storage owned by another access computer as an access destination based on policy information which indicates an access policy.

Thus, according to the present invention a user who wants to access a file in the access computer as the access destination, registers policy information as shown in Fig. 4 to the storage integrated management server. The storage integrated management server receives requests of file writing, file reading or file deleting from the access computers and returns, based on the requested policy information, candidates of the access computers as a write destination to be accessed. The access computer selects an access computer from the candidate access computers, and makes file writing, file reading or file deleting to the selected candidate access computer. Moreover, the storage integrated management server has location information of files (i.e., the directory structure data shown as Fig. 5) in order to select a proper candidate of the access computers as the access destination. The access computer as the access source transmits the determination

notification message of file writing or file deleting to the storage integrated management server, while the access computer as the access destination transmits a write initiation notification message, a write or delete completion notification message to the storage integrated management server so as to retain file consistency that no conflict between file directory index and file data or files of the same content in different access computers as the access destination.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly, Fanning, Needham, and the IBM, Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

The above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by the primary reference Fanning. Fanning relates to a file sharing system and discloses a computer system for file access from provider servers as shown in Fig.1 thereof. According to Fanning et al., recipient clients download a data object (i.e. a file) from the best provider server which is found by the real-time search engine based on the search engine index which includes a data object description table and a provider server description table. The purpose of Fanning's system is the download of files from client computers, i.e. read-only access to files. However, contrary to the teachings of Fanning, according to the present invention, access computers can make file writing or file deleting to another access computers as described in the amended claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the real-time search engine in Fanning corresponds to the integrated storage management server the present invention and the provider server description table in Fanning corresponds to the policy information in the present invention. However, Fanning does not teach or suggest that the provider server description table performs a function similar to the policy information for user file access as in the present invention as recited in the claims. The provider server description table in Fanning only describes the current state of servers, while the policy information according to the present invention as recited in the claims and as shown in Fig. 4 of the present application is the information which a user indicates for his preferable access policy. The policy information includes, for example, the type of the computers, the total space of a volume, the available time zone, and the priority of selection as shown in Fig.4. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Fanning.

Thus, the provider server description table in Fanning does not correspond to the policy information according to the present invention as recited in the claims. The real-time search engine in Fanning is set for downloading files i.e., reading files from provider servers. To the contrary, the integrated storage management server of the present invention is set not only for reading files but also for writing or deleting files. Such is clearly not possible in Fanning. Therefore the real-time search engine in Fanning does not correspond to the integrated storage management server as in the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Fanning whether taken individually or in

combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection claims 1-3 and 9-11 is respectfully requested.

The above noted deficiencies of Fanning are not supplied by any of the other references of record particularly Needham and the IBM, Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, Fanning whether taken individually or in combination with one or more of Needham and the IBM, Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

The IBM reference teaches tables that reflect the utilization of storage volumes that are managed. However, these tables as taught by the IBM reference are for the management of volumes, not tables for storing a users' access policy as in the present invention as recited in the claims. Similar deficiencies can be found in Needham and the Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references.

Thus, combining Fanning with one or more of Needham and the IBM, Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of claims 4-8 and 12-16 based on Fanning being combined with one or more of Needham and the IBM, Muller, Yang and Rabinovich references is respectfully requested.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 17-20. New claims 17-20 recite many of the same features shown above not taught or suggested

by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, the same arguments presented above with respect to claims 1-16 apply as well to new claims 17-20.

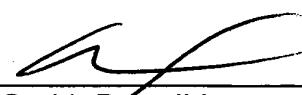
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.41303X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 312-6600